



JUBILEE
OF MERCY

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved. Forever!

Ametur

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Newsletter of the Associates of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

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Dear Associates,

In keeping with the theme for the Jubilee Year of Mercy, you might find this poem speaks to your heart – I know it does to mine. May you find comfort and inspiration in its words.

The Garments of God

God sits on a chair in the darkness of my soul.
He is God alone, supreme in His majesty.
I sit at His feet, a child in the dark beside Him;
my joy is aware of His glance
and my sorrow is tempted
to rest on the thought that His face
is turned from me.

He is clothed in the robes of His mercy,
voluminous garments-
not velvet or silk and affable to the touch,
but fabric strong for a frantic hand to clutch,
and I hold to it fast with the fingers of my will.

Here is my cry of faith, my deep avowal
to the Divinity that I am dust.

I need not go abroad
to the hills of speech or the hinterlands of music
for a crier to walk in my soul where all is still.

I have this potent prayer through good or ill:
here in the dark I clutch the garments of God.

(Jessica Powers, Carmelite)

Pope Francis tells us that "God's mercy transforms human hearts; it enables us, through the experience of a faithful love, to become merciful in turn" (Lenten Letter 2016). So our mercy is born of our awareness of our own sinfulness, of our need for mercy and of our experience of God's



loving forgiveness. Doing some background reading on the Gospel for the 5th Sunday in Lent, the story of the woman taken in adultery, I came across the following pertinent image:

"I've got no stone to throw" brings us to the truth of our own situation – we are all sinners, all in need of God's loving forgiveness and mercy, and therefore can never presume to put ourselves into the position of judging our brothers and sisters –

leave that to our loving God. At his weekly Sunday Angelus talk, 12th March, Pope Francis challenged:

"How well it does for us to recognize we are sinners! When we speak badly of others – all things that we know well – do we have the courage to drop the stones on the ground that we have ready to throw at others, and think a bit about our sins?!"

Again Pope Francis reminds us of our responsibility to be merciful like the Father:

"Jesus affirms that mercy is not only an action of the Father, it becomes a criterion for ascertaining who his true children are. In short, we are called to show mercy because mercy has first been shown to us. Pardoning offences becomes the clearest expression of merciful love, and for us Christians it is an imperative from which we cannot excuse ourselves. At times how hard it seems to forgive! And yet pardon is the instrument placed into our fragile hands to attain serenity of heart"(Misericordiae Vultus No 9).

You might like to reflect on these words, especially: "At times how hard it seems to forgive!" What are some aspects of celebrating mercy that you think would be important in your Parish? In your family? In your own life? Are there some practical ways in which you could start celebrating mercy in your life today?

The Psalms are full of beautiful and comforting phrases expressing God's bountiful mercy. Perhaps you could make a and choose one that particularly for a week. Then choose another certainly give you a deepening



prayerful search through the Psalms touches you and keep it as a mantra for the following week. This would appreciation of the mercy of God.

JOYFUL EASTER BLESSINGS

ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!

*"Let us believe the Gospel when it tells us that the kingdom of God is already present in this world and is growing, here and there, and in different ways:
like the small seed that grows into a great tree,
like the measure of leaven that makes the dough rise,
and like the good seed that grows amid the weeds
and can always pleasantly surprise us.
The kingdom is here, it returns, it struggles to flourish anew.
Christ's resurrection everywhere calls forth seeds of that new world;
even if they are cut back they grow again,
for the resurrection is already secretly woven into the fabric of this history,
for Jesus did not rise in vain.
May we never remain on the sidelines of this march of living hope!"*
(Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* Par 278).

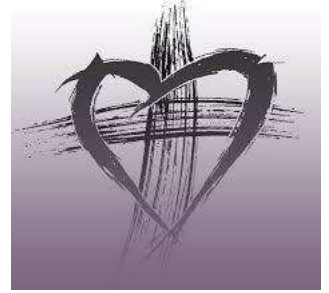
Let us live out this Easter season with joy and thanksgiving, always keeping in our hearts and prayers our sisters and brothers who are living in desperate situations and who find it almost impossible to hope any more. May our hope bring them hope.

United in the loving and merciful Heart of Jesus with Mary,

Sr Ancilla Osh

Loving Congratulations
to **Trees Stockley** who made her Commitment as an

Associate of the Daughter of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
in the Hartzler Park Chapel on Sunday 14th February, 2016.
May you be richly blessed, dear Trees,
as you live out your vocation to be on earth the Heart of Jesus.



SPIRITUALITY OF THE HEART

in accordance with FR. JULES CHEVALIER'S CHARISM.

An on-line program for members of the Chevalier Family
and for everyone interested in a Spirituality of the Heart.

Here are Sections 3 and 4 of our **On-Going Formation program.**

Section 3

COMMON FEATURES OF THE CHARISM OF THESE SPIRITUAL TEACHERS

What have these men and women in common?

(St. Benedict (480-547), St. Dominic (1170-1221), St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) and St. Clare (1194-1253), St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556), St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582), St. John of the Cross (1542-1581), or St. Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897 - all mentioned in Section 2, see Ametur No 318).

As we have said before, they all have received a special Gift of the Spirit, and by responding to this Gift, they followed the guidance of the Spirit in their daily life, and in all their undertakings. The Spirit is always at work in each of us to deepen and strengthen our relationship with God and Jesus Christ as well as with our neighbours. Therefore, in the lives of all these great men and women, you will discover a profound, personal relationship with Jesus, even a passion for Jesus and his Gospel message, as well as a total commitment to the coming of God's Reign on earth, in personal relationships, in daily life and work, and in secular society.

These men and women also show us that by being faithful to the Gift of the Spirit in our hearts, we will be empowered in loving our neighbours, wholeheartedly. "*God's Spirit makes us loving, happy, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, and self-controlled.*" (Galatians 5:22 -23)

A third feature is: they all take seriously St. Paul's word: "*God has given us the Holy Spirit in our hearts*" (2 Cor 1:21-22; see also 1 Cor 2:10-12), and are *aware* of the mystery of the presence of God's Spirit within their hearts. By doing so, they are able to show us a new way of life: not just following the current fads and fancies of public opinion, but living "from inside out". They call this 'inside' with different names. Jesus himself had already spoken about "the inner room" (Mat 6:6). Many centuries later, Teresa of Avila calls it the "Interior Castle". In modern times, Thomas Merton spoke about the "True Self". Other teachers simply refer to "the soul" or "the heart", meaning the inner core of the human person.

Now, as St. Paul often repeats, we are all gifted by the Spirit: "*God's Spirit lives in you*" (e.g. Rom 8:11). The moments of our Baptism and Confirmation have made us aware of this mystery of the

Spirit dwelling within us. The difference between these spiritual teachers and us is that *they* have explored this inner dwelling place of the Spirit, through contemplation and prayer. Moreover, they have shown others how to enter into this 'inner room', the heart. By becoming aware of the presence and the guidance of the Spirit within, we will feel urged to follow a way of life, a way of relating to God and Jesus Christ, of associating with others and performing our daily tasks, according to this divine guidance.

A Reflective Moment

*"I used to keep my spiritual life in a tight space
and felt that my work, my social life, my relational joys and struggles
actually kept me away from God
rather than teaching me
and being sources of personal transformation for me.*

*Now I see all these differently.
I have come to believe that every part of my life affects
or influences my life with God.*

*The world I live in, with its beauty and tragedy,
with its creatures of all forms and shapes,
is constantly offering me messages about who I am and who God is.*

*Everything and everyone teaches me about God, life and myself.
I try now to approach each person, event, creature with two questions:
How are you my teacher?
What am I meant to learn?"*

(Joyce Rupp OSM, The Cup of Our Life, Ave Maria Press 2012).

Section 4

THE CHARISM AND SPIRITUALITY OF FR. JULES CHEVALIER (1824-1907)

It is helpful to make a distinction between Chevalier's charism and his spirituality. A charism is a special Gift of the Holy Spirit, which enriches a Founder with a vision that attracts people to join him or her in carrying out a lifelong mission. A charism could be compared with a flame that sets the heart of a Founder on fire, and that keeps burning during his or her whole life, kindling a similar fire in the hearts of his or her spiritual sons and daughters. "*What we do with that fire, how we channel it, is our spirituality*", states Ronald Rolheiser. A charism is always embodied in a spirituality, as a flame is burning in a fire. A spirituality disconnected from a charism, will run dry; a charism not incorporated in a spirituality, becomes powerless.

When reading about Fr. Chevalier's charism and spirituality, we have to keep in mind that he lived in France of the 19th century. His way of channelling the fire that burned in his heart, that means, his way of expressing his charism in a spirituality, was shaped by the European mentality of his day. Now we live in the 21st century and in different cultures.

Fr. Cuskelly, a former General Superior of the MSC, taking into consideration the way Fr. Chevalier lived the Devotion to the Sacred Heart, pointed out that today it would be more appropriate to speak of 'a Spirituality of the Heart', instead of a 'Devotion to the Sacred Heart', as now the term 'Devotion to the Sacred Heart' does not have the same meaning as it had for Fr. Chevalier.

Fr. Chevalier's charisma, the great passion of his heart, is still relevant to face the challenges in modern society and family life, as far as we allow ourselves to be carried away by his enthusiasm.

Just as Chevalier never got tired of spreading a Devotion to the Sacred Heart in the society of his time, the same spirit should lead us in living and spreading a Spirituality of the Heart in today's society. Or, as it has been said by Fr. Dennis Murphy MSC: "*To share in Father Chevalier's own 'experience of the Spirit' is to be given the gift of rediscovering today his enthusiasm, an enthusiasm capable of carrying him through extraordinary difficulties and disappointment.*"

A Reflective Moment

*"Research into the past would be fruitless,
unless it prepared us for the same 'experience of the Spirit'
that moved our Founder.*

*This does not mean
that we are asked to imitate every detail
about Father Chevalier;
our task is to discover his essential concerns.*

*The creative power of the Spirit
can bring this to life again in us today in new ways
and help us contribute to the Church's Mission."*

(Dennis Murphy MSC)



MEETING REPORTS

Alice Springs: We met in February to plan the year's meetings with a special mention of Sr Margaret Ries's 60th Anniversary this year. Sr Kathleen prepared the afternoon's readings on "Mercy in Scripture". The Sisters gave us each a copy of the *Lenten Program 2016 Mercy*.

Paula Thornton

In March we had a lively discussion on the Prodigal Son. The year will be a busy one with Fr Denis Uhr's visit in mid-May to speak to us on "Mercy". Sr Margaret's 60th Jubilee will be celebrated on the feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and there was much discussion on the preparations for that day. (*Editor's Note: The Parish Church in Alice Springs is dedicated to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart*). Our Associates supported the 2015 Christmas Appeal for Women in crisis and since then have been invited to support women and their families in various ways. We

also thanked Christine Grant for her support and work in our Parish and wished her well in her move to NSW.

Paula Thornton

Bentleigh: Sr Elaine spoke to us about Lent and how it has evolved into more of a time for helping others and less of self-denial than in the past. She referred to the relevance of today's Gospel of the Fig Tree. The fig tree didn't bear fruit, so instead of destroying it, the gardener (God) gave it a makeover to help it produce fruit. In the same way we have the opportunity to become "fruitful" again with God's help. He will assist us to repent of our selfishness and become more compassionate towards the people in our lives. At our next meeting Fr D Uhr msc will speak to us about the "Year of Mercy".

Patricia Mirabile

Bowral: During our February meeting we read and discussed Sr Marife's *Message for New Year 2016*. We all found the *Core Elements taken* from the latest book of Fr Ronal Rolheiser OMI connected to our Constitutions. As well some statements from Pope Francis were relevant to our everyday Christian life and our Chevalier Family's Spirituality of the Heart. It was wonderful to see how we are finding the attributes brought out during this current Year of Mercy so relevant to our way of living. Our prayer was based on some quotations from Pope Francis for this special year.

Sr Therese McNamara

Canberra: Sr Mary Ruth led a discussion on a reflection on the family from Pope Francis' Address at the Meeting of Families USA September 2015." Family life is something very worthwhile, and society grows stronger and better, grows in beauty and truth, when it rises on the foundation of the family. Perfect families do not exist. This must not discourage us. Quite the opposite. Love is something we learn; love is something we live; love grows as it is 'forged' by the concrete situations which each particular family experiences. Love is born and constantly deepens amid lights and shadows."

We all felt that this ties in with our commitment "To be the Heart of Christ to all we meet".

We had our Annual Retreat day in March. Fr Denis Uhr msc gave us a Retreat on the Year of Mercy, showing us where Jesus showed mercy in the Gospels and how times have changed in the way we show mercy to each other. We reflected on how, in our faith journey, we have grown in our understanding of God's mercy towards us – how we have changed and grown. Father asked us to ponder on how we view God, and what image we have of God.

We finished our quiet and prayerful day with Benediction followed by afternoon tea. All agreed that it was a good day of prayer in silence.

Christine Casey

Darwin: At our first meeting for the year we took the Prayer for the Jubilee Year of Mercy as our focus. We prayed it and took the Gospel extracts that were highlighted in the prayer and applied them to our own life experiences. The sharing with each other was fruitful and stimulating.

Sr Jo Kenny

Enfield: Our November meeting began with Sr Pat reading from Luke's Gospel the story of the ten lepers. After a time of reflection we looked at gratitude in our daily lives. "What have I taken for granted today, for which I can now be grateful?" "What are the everyday miracles that God gives us?" We shared as much as we felt able.

Carmel introduced the final chapter of Fr Hans Kwakman's book and led us through personal reflection on the questions posed in the Ametur. After a time of quiet we wrote our responses and then shared them with one other group member.

We would like to thank Jan Clark for her work in providing us with the guidelines in the Ametur.

It was a great end to another year together and being so close to the wonderful feast of Christmas we enjoyed some lovely Christmas treats for supper. **Margaret Baker**

Hartzer: Following our Sunday Mass Sr Elizabeth Little received the Commitment of Trees Stockley as an Associate of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. This was a lovely and blessed way to begin our new year. A celebratory morning tea followed and then our first meeting for 2016. Sr Ancilla described the new On-Going Formation Program, as outlined in the Ametur No 318, which our group will commence in April. Sr Elizabeth also spoke of the importance of on-going formation in the Charism and Spirituality of the Heart and then told us of the very moving ceremony she attended at Port Keats for the celebration of the life of the OLSH Associate, Scholastica Kinthari, who died recently. Hearing 'first hand' about other Associate Groups really helps in making them 'come alive' for us and gives us a sense of 'connection'.

We wish all groups and all Associates a very blessed and happy year. **Jan Clark**

Notre Dame: Together we read the Ametur with our thoughts turned towards the Year of Mercy. We shared our thoughts as to how we might be "Merciful like the Father". For us the task is difficult because we can never show mercy as the Father shows us mercy but we do strive to forgive as Jesus did.

Judith then shared her beautiful thoughts on the First Sunday in Lent when we accompany Jesus into the desert and reflect on his temptations. The Word of God feeds our deepest hungers. Our obedience to this Word is expressed in our attentive listening to its proclamation, especially in our Sunday Liturgy, in our prayerful reading of Holy Scripture, and in our efforts to make this Word "living and active" from day to day.

We missed Sr Marilyn and hope that she will soon be well enough to attend the next meeting.

Maureen Maher

We began our March meeting with the hymn, *Holy Ground*. It was good to listen and "be still". Judith prepared our meditation for 5th Sunday of Lent – The Woman Taken in Adultery. We thought about how Jesus would have remembered what his own mother had told him: the fear, holy yet human, she must have experienced, the gossip she probably endured about her pregnancy. And did Jesus also remember the gentle and just man named Joseph, who would not cast a stone? What we need to do is heap up in our own hearts and in our Church compassion that heals, not stones that hurt, to live the commandment of love. This demands that we love without judgement all those around us especially the members of our families in this special Year of Mercy. Our next meeting will be in June.

We went to St Joseph's for a lovely afternoon tea.

Maureen Maher

Randwick/Daceyville/Malabar: This was our final meeting for the year and we were joined by Sisters Elizabeth Little, Christine Martin, Mary Ruth, Ancilla and our leader Sr Theresa Coleman, as well as Associates from other groups. Together we attended the midday Mass at OLSH Church, Randwick and then moved over to the beautiful National Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart where Margaret Butler and Mary Gallagher made their Commitment which was received by Sr Elizabeth Little, the Australian Provincial Leader, who then presented them with their medals. After that we moved across to the Parish Hall, Ventnor, where we enjoyed a delicious shared luncheon. Then Sr Christine Martin, on leave from South Africa where she works with orphaned and vulnerable children in the Limpopo Province, gave us a most interesting and sometimes amusing talk on her apostolate there. We promised to pray for Sister and her charges.

Pauline Roberts

Roselands: Our meeting began with the song, "Woman", by Sr Megan Donohue. We then prayed for Sr Marilyn Knolder and all the OLSH Sisters. Pat Cosgrove gave a brief history of The OLSH Sisters as we have a new member. We read Sr Ancilla's article in the Ametur – Jesus is the face of the Father's mercy. We shared on how we, too, could be the face of the Father's mercy in our lives – visiting the sick at home, in hospital and Nursing Homes. We could try to visit the Church more often and receive the Sacraments of Communion and Reconciliation, and also join the Lenten Groups in our parishes. We need to help friends and neighbours who need help. Since the majority of our members are catechists we can teach our pupils about the merciful love of Jesus. We ended the meeting with light refreshments. **Esme** **Elefante**



We Remember Our Beloved Deceased

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart:

Sr Lucy Bange (St Joseph's)
Sr Benedicta Carroll (St Joseph's)
Sr Lorraine Denier (St Joseph's)
Sr Thérèse Farrell (Kensington)
Sr Maria Van Den Bossche (Belgium)
Sr Regina Lavu (PNG)
Sr Gemma Roriki (Kiribati)

OLSH Associates :

Marissa Saunders (Bowral)
Veronica Platzer (Queensland)
Martha Keringbo (Port Keats)
Kath Myers (Portarlington)
Patricia Harrison (Bowral)

Loved Relatives and Friends:

Peter Troy, Felipe Amodia, Mark Finocchiaro, Fr Tony Daly, Mario Borrean, Bob Sharpe, Jack Brockett, Kathleen Gausow, Una Smith.

We Remember Our Sick and Those in Need of Our Prayers

John Henschke, Gary, Ian Leahy, Lloyd and Jane, Sr Mona Sackley, Sr Bernadette Koning, Sr Marilyn Knolder, Fr John Shalvey msc, Fr Terry Naughton msc, Fr Maurice McNamara, Madeleine Kendall, Eric Finney, Paul Canavan, Stan & Monica McTaggart, Mary Gleeson, Pat Cudmore, Beth McGrath, Rita Moore, Heather Hardy, Sue Marks, Finocchiaro Family, Esme Elefante, Kay, Val McKinnon, Anne Lo Schiavo, Martin Leiby, Evelyn Howarth, Robyn & Tara McInness, John Sexton, Dominic McMahan, Ron & Cheryl Bellamy, Roger Dalziel, Frank Miles,

Margaret & Lisa Toye, Bill & Lorraine Conolly, Kathleen Webster, Margaret and Melanie Keen, Ros Bailey, Kathleen Casey, Lesley Cheeseman, Adrienne Hemsley, Colleen Leonard, Brian Measy, Laura Hinds, Peter O'Sullivan, Patricia Baks, Bernadette Farrugia, Michael Poulton, Ruth Kelly, Margaret Tate, Bryan Butler, Anna & Giovanni Tomc, Rose Gonsalves, David Chung, Loreta Ramon, Kelly Nool, Oscar Estep, Laura Hinds, Peter O'Sullivan, Someone who is about to become redundant.

We pray in Thanksgiving For:

- Trees Stockley – our newest Associate
- Hazel and Ken Bailey celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary
- Adrienne and Paul Hemsley celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary
 - Granting of Jeremy Keen's special intention